

January, February, March/April Weather and Fire Potential Outlook.

Outlook Maps at: <http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/outlooks.htm>

Southern Area Discussion at http://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/predictive/outlooks/SA_Monthly_Seasonal_Fire_Outlook.pdf

Drought and Fuel Conditions (By exception)

Recurring periods of moderate to locally high rain activity and a return of colder “winter like” temperatures have significantly eased, but not erased, what has been an extreme dry and high drought condition for the South 0- especially for our Appalachian mountain states. Ongoing and increasing drought conditions remain a concern in light of the weather outlook for our more southeastern (southeast Georgia and Florida particularly) and western Oklahoma/northwest Texas areas of the Southern area.

Weather and Climate Outlook:

ENSO SSTs remain in a weak but persisting La Nina-ish (cool biased) anomaly pattern. Overall weakening of the current “cool” ENSO episode to a more volatile neutral state is expected from winter into early spring. While this situation should produce a lot of variability in the weather pattern during this outlook period (very cold and warm temp outbreaks and rain and snow); a persisting drier trend is seen for the southwestern plains in our west and for Florida and otherwise our “deep” southeast state area.

Fire Activity and Area Discussion:

Existing drier fire environment conditions and some limited fire activity in December cause us to put an area of Oklahoma/north-central Texas in a monitor status for potentially higher trending/persisting fire risks. Expected precipitation activity (rain and frozen) during the month should be enough to keep the incidence of longer duration periods of anomalous fire activity at bay. Our estimate is that the trending drier and therefore higher trending fire risk areas from late winter into early spring will persistently be located across western Oklahoma and northwest Texas and then in our deeper southeast: southeast Georgia, southern Alabama, South Carolina, and Florida. Cured grass fuel loadings remain high for areas of Oklahoma and Texas and pose risks for larger/rapid fire spread should ignition occur in a higher wind/low RH period.

JAN

Now deeper into the winter months, an active weather period along with periods of alternating much colder then warmer temperatures and a “wetter” environment provided by Dec rain activity is likely to continue to keep longer duration and critical fire conditions from occurring.

FEB

Oklahoma/northwest Texas: Existing drier conditions and fuel loading conditions will need to be monitored for outlook weather indicated periods of continued drier weather and potential windy/low RH periods. For this reason, and for especially a much below average rain outlook, we choose to place this area into an increasing to above average potential.

MAR/APR

For Oklahoma/Texas: Closely monitor fire risks as an expected increase in rain activity during the march timeframe could produce a downward trend in fire potential that could last into April.

Our deep southeast areas (southern Georgia/Florida particularly): A persisting drier than average rain outlook over the period should continue to support a drying/drier fuel environment. The Feb timeframe could be a break in that pattern with an indication for greater rain activity. A return to drier rain patterns Mar and April for our deep southeast are being interpreted as risks for above average fire activity given the current/forecast drought conditions. Keep in mind, historical “normal” peaking Florida fire activity (numbers of fires) is during Feb/Mar with another peak occurring in may - which also coincides with their peak in acres burned.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Valid for November 17 - February 28, 2017
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Released November 17, 2016



PREVIOUS DROUGHT
OUTLOOK

JAN



EXISTING DRIER FIRE ENVIRONMENT
CONDITIONS AND SOME LIMITED FIRE
ACTIVITY IN DECEMBER CAUSE US TO PUT
THIS AREA IN A MONITOR STATUS FOR
POTENTIAL HIGHER TRENDING/PERSISTING
FIRE RISKS. EXPECTED PRECIP ACTIVITY
(RAIN AND FROZEN) DURING THE MONTH
SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO KEEP THE
INCIDENCE OF LONGER DURATION PERIODS
OF ANOMALOUS FIRE ACTIVITY AT BAY.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Valid for December 15 - March 31, 2017
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Released December 15, 2016



BLUE OUTLINE
DROUGHT IMPROVES/REMOVAL
CURRENT DROUGHT OUTLOOK

FEB



EXISTING DRIER CONDITIONS AND FUEL
LOADING WILL NEED TO BE MONITORED
FOR OUTLOOK WEATHER INDICATED
PERIODS OF CONTINUED DRIER
WEATHER AND POTENTIAL WINDY/LOW
RH PERIODS.

OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT THE TRENDING
DRIER AND THEREFORE HIGHER
TRENDING FIRE RISK AREAS FROM
LATE WINTER INTO EARLY SPRING
WILL PERSISTENTLY BE LOCATED
ACROSS WESTERN OKLAHOMA AND
NORTHWEST TEXAS AND THEN IN OUR
DEEPER SOUTHEAST: SOUTHEAST
GEORGIA, SOUTHERN
ALABAMA, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND
FLORIDA. CURED GRASS FUEL
LOADINGS REMAIN HIGH FOR AREAS
OF OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS AND POSE
RISKS FOR LARGER/RAPID FIRE
SPREAD SHOULD IGNITION OCCUR IN
A HIGHER WIND/LOW RH PERIOD.

MAR-APR



CLOSELY MONITOR FIRE RISKS AS AN
EXPECTED INCREASE IN RAIN ACTIVITY DURING
THE MARCH TIMEFRAME COULD PRODUCE A
DOWNWARD TREND IN FIRE POTENTIAL THAT
COULD LAST INTO APRIL.

A persisting drier than average rain
outlook over the period should continue to
support a drying/drier fuel environment.
The Feb. timeframe could be a break in
that pattern with an indication for greater
rain activity. A return to drier rain patterns
mar and April are being interpreted as
risks for above average fire activity. Keep

6. Web Links to Various Fire Danger or Fire Weather Related Products (updated July 1, 2016).

Product Description (Source)	Link
Days Since Significant Rain (Predictive Services)	Click Here for DSR
ERC Percentile Map (USFS)	Click here for USFS ERC
ERC Anomaly Charts (DRI)	Click here for DRI ERC
SACC Web Page	Click here for SACC
FM100 Daily Values (Predictive Services)	Click Here for Daily FM100 Values by PSA
FM1000 Daily Values (Predictive Services)	Click Here for Daily FM1000 Values by PSA
Table of Fire Family Plus Outputs (Predictive Services)	Click Here for a Table of Fire Family Plus Outputs by PSA
WFAS Indices by State (Predictive Services)	Click Here for WFAS Indices by State
Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (Predictive Services)	Click Here to see NWS QPF Maps on one page
QPF Table by PSA (Predictive Services)	Click Here to see a QPF table by PSA
Precipitation Anomaly Maps (New as of June 23)	Click here to see PAM6 maps
Observed BI (Predictive Services)	Click here for Observed BI by PSA as computed by Fire Family Plus
Forecast BI for DAY1 (Predictive Services)	Use DAY2, DAY3, DAY4, DAY5, DAY6, DAY7 to see additional forecast panels
Forecast FM100 for DAY1 (Predictive Services)	Use DAY2, DAY3, DAY4, DAY5, DAY6, DAY7 to see additional forecast panels
Forecast FM1000 for DAY1 (Predictive Services)	Use DAY2, DAY3, DAY4, DAY5, DAY6, DAY7 to see additional forecast panels
Observed DENSCA (Predictive Services)	Click Here for Observed DENSCA Map
Forecast DAY1 DENSCA Map (Predictive Services)	Use DAY2, DAY3, DAY4, DAY5, DAY6, DAY7 for additional forecast panels
US View of Day1-2-3 Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches (Predictive Services)	Click Here for US View of DAY1-2-3 Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches
Southern Area View of DAY1-2-3 Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches (Predictive Services)	Click Here for Southern Area View of DAY1-2-3 Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches
ERC Observed/Forecast Monthly/Yearly Departure/Percentile Maps (Predictive Services)	Click Here for Observed/Forecast ERC Monthly/Yearly Departures/Percentiles
30DAY and YTD Observed and Forecast ERC-G Chart for Southern Area PSAs	ERC-G 30DAY Observed and Forecast Chart. Replace PSA in URL for additional charts
RH Maximum/Minimum Maps	
US Maximum RH Map (Predictive Services)	Click Here for the Observed US Maximum RH Map
US Minimum RH Map (Predictive Services)	Click Here for the Observed US Minimum RH Map

Southern Area Observed Maximum RH Map (Predictive Services)	Click Here for Southern Area Observed Maximum RH Map
Southern Area Observed Minimum RH Map (Predictive Services)	Click Here for Southern Area Observed Minimum RH Map
Eastern Area Observed Maximum RH Map (Southern Area Predictive Services)	Click Here for Eastern Area Observed Maximum RH Map
Eastern Area Observed Minimum RH Map (Southern Area Predictive Services)	Click Here for Eastern Area Observed Minimum RH Map
RH Wind Forecast Maps (Predictive Services)	Use DAY2, DAY3, DAY4, DAY5, DAY6, DAY7 to access additional panels
KBDI Related Products	
Weekly KBDI Reference Maps (Predictive Services)	Click Here for Weekly Reference KBDI Values
KBDI Daily Value Map (Predictive Services)	Click Here Daily KBDI Value by PSA
KBDI Monthly Anomaly (Predictive Services)	Click Here KBDI Monthly Anomaly
KBDI Monthly Percentile (Predictive Services)	Click Here for KBDI Monthly Percentile
KBDI Seasonal Anomaly (Predictive Services)	Click Here for Seasonal Anomaly
KBDI Seasonal Percentile (Predictive Services)	Click Here for KBDI Seasonal Percentile
KBDI Yearly Anomaly (Predictive Services)	Click Here for KBDI Yearly Anomaly
KBDI Yearly Percentile (Predictive Services)	Click Here for KBDI Yearly Percentile
Florida KBDI (Fl. Division of Forestry)	Click Here for Florida KBDI Value
Louisiana KBDI (LSU)	Click here for Louisiana KBDI Value
Oklahoma KBDI (OK Mesonet)	Click Here for Oklahoma KBDI Value
North Carolina KBDI (NCSU)	Click Here for North Carolina KBDI Value
Texas KBDI (TAMU)	Click Here for Texas KBDI Value
Georgia (GFC)	Click Here for Georgia KBDI Value
Fire Potential Outlooks and Assessments	
Southern Area 7-Day Map (Predictive Services)	Click Here for 7-Day Map
Southern Area 7-Day Table Grid (Predictive Services)	Click Here for 7-Day Table Grid of Dryness Levels
National Monthly Seasonal Outlook (NIFC)	Click Here for National Monthly-Seasonal Outlook
Monthly Outlook Map 1 (NIFC)	Click Here for Monthly Outlook Map 1
Monthly Outlook Map 2 (NIFC)	Click Here for Monthly Outlook Map 2
Seasonal Outlook Map 3 (NIFC)	Click Here for Seasonal Outlook Map 3